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ABSTRACT

The information in this report on teenage victims of crime is based on data obtained from the National Crime Survey for the years 1982 through 1984. The introduction summarizes crimes against teenagers, highlighting numbers, rates of victimization, and differences in crimes against teenagers and adults. These topics are discussed in detail: (1) victimization rates; (2) trends in types of crimes committed against teenagers; (3) crime characteristics, including the use of weapons in crimes, self-protective measures, injuries and medical care, and number of victims and offenders; (4) offender characteristics, including the relationship to victim, sex of offenders, race of offenders, and age of offenders; (5) rates of reporting crimes to the police; and (6) methodology of the National Crime Survey including definitions of terms and reliability of comparisons. Results are discussed which showed that teenagers had higher annual violent and theft crime victimization rates than did adults; older teenagers had higher violent crime victimization rates than did younger teenagers; male teenagers had higher violent and theft crime victimization rates than did female teenagers; and black teenagers had higher violent crime victimization rates than did teenagers of other racial groups. One figure and 18 tables illustrate the document. (ABL)

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U.S. Department of Justice
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# Teenage Victims

## A National Crime Survey Report

NCJ-103138, November 1986

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# Teenage Victims

## A National Crime Survey Report

NCJ-103138, November 1986

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National Crime Survey data collection and processing activities are conducted by the Bureau of the Census. At present, the program is under the supervision of Evan Davey, Acting Chief, Crime Surveys Branch, Demographic Surveys Division. He is assisted by Helen Montagliani, Patricia Bowles, Donna Brooks, Jennifer Jones, Marilyn Monahan, Sherrie Schrama, Janice Sebold, and Bruce Wilder.

Guidance on technical matters related to this program was provided by Inez Chen and David Hubble, Statistical Methods Division, Bureau of the Census, under the supervision of Charles Alexander.

In the Bureau of Justice Statistics the data collection program is monitored by Michael R. Rand.

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## Introduction

From 1982 through 1984, teenagers (ages 12-19) experienced an average of 1.8 million violent crimes and 3.7 million crimes of theft annually. Teenage victimization rates for these crimes were about twice as high as those of the adult population, ages 20 and older. The average annual violent crime victimization rate was 60.1 per 1,000 teenagers compared to 26.9 for the adult population. For crimes of theft, the teenage rate was 123.5; the adult rate, 65.6.

Within the teenage population itself, older teens (ages 16-19) had higher violent crime victimization rates than did younger teens (ages 12-15). The two groups had similar victimization rates for crimes of theft.

Trends in crime rates against teenagers since 1973 have been similar to those for adults. Teenagers have experienced a decline in theft victimization rates, but violent crime victimization rates have remained essentially unchanged.

Both younger and older teens were more likely than adults to be attacked during a violent crime and were less likely than adults to be injured. In other ways, however, the characteristics of incidents against older teens more closely resembled those of adult victimizations. Similar proportions of older teens and adults faced armed offenders and, if injured, sustained serious injuries. By contrast, younger teens were least likely of the three age groups to face armed offenders; if injured, they were less likely to sustain serious injuries.

Crimes against teenagers were less likely to be reported to the police than crimes against adults. Among teenagers, crimes against younger teens were less likely to be reported than crimes against older teens.

Violent crimes against teenagers were more likely to be committed by other teenagers than by adults. Most of these crimes against younger teenagers were committed by offenders under 18 years old. Close to half of the violent crimes against older teenagers were committed by offenders under 21. By contrast, 70% of the violent crimes against adults were committed by offenders age 21 or older.

Teenagers of all ages also reported knowing their assailants more often than adults. Younger teens were most likely to report that the offender was a casual acquaintance or someone known by sight, but least likely to identify their assailant as a complete stranger.

The information in this report is based on data obtained from the National Crime Survey (NCS) for the years 1982 through 1984. The NCS obtains information about personal and household crimes, including crimes not reported to the police, from individuals ages 12 and over in a nationally representative sample of households. Although NCS interviewers obtain information directly from most household members, nearly all the interviews for 12- and 13-year-olds are completed by a knowledgeable adult household member (see methodology).

## Victimization rates

- Teenagers had higher annual violent crime victimization rates than did adults from 1982 through 1984. Young teenagers had a rate of 52.0 per 1,000 teens; the rate for older teens was 67.8 per 1,000 (table 1). Adults had a violent crime victimization rate of 26.9 per 1,000. For each category of violent crime (rape, robbery, and assault) teenagers in both age groups had higher victimization rates than adults.

- Overall, teenagers had higher victimization rates for crimes of theft than adults. The rates for personal larceny with contact (purse snatching or pocket picking) were not measurably different for teens and adults. The rate for personal larceny without contact, however, was higher for teenagers than for adults.

- Within the adolescent population, older teenagers had higher victimization rates than younger teens for crimes of violence in general and for the specific violent crimes of robbery and aggravated assault. Younger and older teens experienced similar rates of personal thefts.

- Within the U.S. population, personal victimization rates generally decrease as the age of the victim increases (table 2). Because older age groups have lower personal victimization rates than do young adults, the rates for the entire adult population are lower than the rates for teenagers. However, the victimization rates for young adults ages 20-24 and teenagers are more similar than the aggregated adult rates suggest.

- Similar to the adult population, male teenagers had higher violent and theft crime rates than did female teens. Black teenagers had higher violent crime rates than teenagers of other racial groups. Within categories of teenagers based on race and sex, however, older teens consistently had higher victimization rates for violent crimes than younger teens in the same group (table 3).[1] On the other hand, victimization rates for crimes of theft generally did not vary by age within these same categories; young black teens, however, had higher rates than older black teens.

[1]The difference between victimization rates for 12-15-year-old blacks and 16-19-year-old blacks was significant at the 90% confidence level.

**Trends**

• The trends in crime rates against teenagers are similar to those for the population as a whole. Annual rates of crimes of theft experienced by teenagers have generally declined since the inception of NCS in 1973 (figure 1). The rate in 1984 (120.4 per 1,000) was measurably lower than the rates for all previous years except 1980 and 1983.[2]

• Overall, the violent crime victimization rate for teenagers has remained essentially stable since 1973. However, the rates for individual categories of violent crime have changed. Between 1973 and 1984 the rate of aggravated assault declined by 17% from 19.2 to 16.0 per 1,000 teenagers. The robbery rate for teenagers was somewhat lower in 1984 than in 1974.

• In contrast to the decreases in robbery and aggravated assault rates, the annual rate of simple assault rose by 21% from 27.3 per 1,000 teenagers in 1973 to 32.9 in 1984.

• Younger and older teens had similar trends in victimization rates over time (table 4). For both groups, theft victimization rates were lower in 1984 than in 1973; violent crime victimization rates did not change during this same period for either group.

• Younger teens had a somewhat higher theft victimization rate than older teens in 1973, but in 1984 there was no measurable difference in the rates for the two groups. On the other hand, older teens had consistently higher violent crime victimization rates than younger teens during these years.[3]

[2]The difference between the 1984 rate and the 1982 rate was significant at the 90% confidence level.

[3]The difference between violent crime rates for younger and older teens in 1973 was significant at the 90% confidence level.

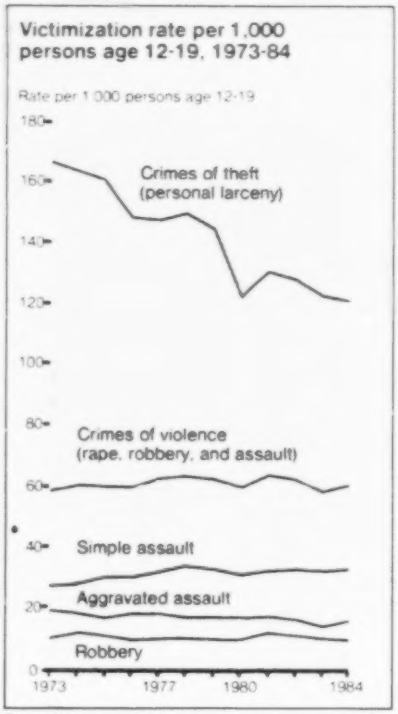

Figure 1

**Crime characteristics**

*Place and time of occurrence*

The likelihood of experiencing a crime at a particular place or time is related to the daily activities of the potential victim. Because young teens spend a significant amount of time at school, they are more likely than adults to be victimized there (table 5). Since the daily activities of adults may include employment, housekeeping, and leisure activities, they are more likely than teenagers to experience violent crime while at or near home or in a restaurant or commercial building.

Other findings include:

• Young teenagers were most likely to experience robberies and aggravated assaults on a street or in a park but were most likely to be victims of simple assault while in a school building or on school property.

• Older teenagers were most likely to be victims of all types of violent crime while on a street or in a park.

• Teenagers in both age groups were most likely to experience crimes of theft in a school building or on school property. Younger teenagers, however, were about twice as likely as older teens to experience thefts at school (83% vs. 42%).

• Younger teenagers were more likely than either older teenagers or adults to experience crimes of violence or theft during the daytime, that is, between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. (table 6). This finding is related in part to the proportion of young teens who were victimized at school.

• Similar proportions of older teens and adults were victimized by violent crimes during the day. Older teens were more likely than adults to experience larcenies without contact in the daytime. They were, however, less likely than adults to experience larcenies with contact during the day.

*The use of weapons in crimes*

• Young teenagers were the least likely of the three age groups to face armed offenders during crimes of violence. There were no measurable differences in the proportions of older teenagers and adults who faced armed offenders (table 7).

• Younger teenagers were the least likely of the three age groups to face offenders armed with guns, and were somewhat less likely than older teens to be victimized by offenders armed with knives.

*Self-protective measures*

NCS collects information on self-protective measures taken by victims during violent crimes. These measures, ranked from most to least serious, are:
1) using or brandishing a weapon;
2) using or attempting to use physical force;
3) trying to get help or attract

attention; arguing or reasoning with or threatening the offender; 4) resisting without force, running away, hiding.

Major findings on self-protection include:

- Younger teens were less likely than older teens (74% vs. 79%) and somewhat less likely than adults (74% vs. 77%) to take self-protective measures.

- Of those who took self-protective measures, teenagers were less likely than adults to try to get help or to argue or reason with the offender (table 8).

- Younger teenagers were the most likely of the three age groups to resist without force.

- Older teens (37%) were more likely than adults (30%) and somewhat more likely than younger teens (32%) to use or try to use physical force when they took self-protective measures.

- Among the self-protective measures taken by young teenagers, similar proportions resisted without force (38%) and used physical force or attempted force as self-protective measures (32%). A larger proportion resisted without force than tried to get help or argue or reason with the offenders (25%).

- Among the self-protective measures taken by older teens, the proportion who used or tried to use physical force (37%) was higher than those who tried to get help (27%) and somewhat higher than those who resisted without force (31%). They were less likely to use or attempt to use weapons.

*Injuries and medical care*

Violent crimes, as measured in the NCS, include different components of attacks and threats. In a violent crime, an offender may attack the victim using a weapon or physical force. The victim may or may not sustain injuries as a result of attacks. Violent crimes can also consist of threats against the victim rather than actual attacks. Examples of threats include verbal threats, displaying a weapon, following a victim, or attempting to use a weapon, such as shooting at but missing the victim.

Findings on attacks, injuries, and medical care for teenage and adult victims include:

- Teenagers were more likely than adults to be attacked during a violent crime (table 9). The proportions of older and younger teens attacked were not measurably different.

- Younger teens were more likely and older teens were somewhat more likely than adults to be attacked but not injured.

- A higher proportion of teenagers than adults were injured but did not obtain subsequent medical care.

- The proportions of violent crime victims who were injured and who obtained medical care did not vary by age.

- Younger teenage victims who were injured were less likely than adult or older teenage injured victims to sustain serious injuries (table 10). The proportions of older teenage and adult injured victims who sustained serious injuries were not measurably different.

*Number of victims and offenders*

- Higher proportions of teens than adults faced multiple offenders when alone or when others were present but not victimized, such as when the crime took place in school or in another public place (table 11).

- Teenagers were also more likely than adults to face multiple offenders when there was more than one victim.

**Offender characteristics**

*Relationship to victim*

Because respondents may be reluctant to mention crimes committed against them by relatives and acquaintances, and because adults answer NCS questions for nearly all 12- and 13-year-olds, it is likely that the NCS undercounts crimes committed against teenagers by relatives or family friends. Even given this likelihood, teenage violent crime victims were more likely than adult victims to report that they knew the offender (table 12).

Other findings concerning the victim-offender relationship are:

- Young teenage violent crime victims were the most likely of the three age groups to have known their offenders casually or by sight. In many of these situations, the teenager may have recognized the offender as a fellow student in school or as someone living in the neighborhood.

- The proportions of older teenagers and adults victimized by persons known by sight were not measurably different. Older teenage violent crime victims, however, were more likely than adults to report that the offenders were casual acquaintances.

- The proportion of violent crime victims who reported that their offenders were completely unknown was highest for adults (51%) followed by older teenagers (43%) and younger teenagers (32%).

- For all three age groups, the proportions of violent crimes committed by persons completely unknown to the victim varied by type of crime. The proportions of all victims robbed by persons they did not know at all was higher than the comparable percentages for aggravated assaults and for simple assaults.

*Sex of offenders*

- In the vast majority of violent

crimes, males, regardless of age, were victimized by other males (table 13). Male teenagers, however, were even more likely than male adults to be victimized by male offenders (94% vs. 89%).

• In general, females were also more likely to be victimized by males. Female teenagers, however, were more likely than female adults to be victimized by other females (37% vs. 15%).

• Female teenagers were about as likely to suffer simple assaults committed by other females (47%) as by males (48%).

*Race of offenders*

• Teenagers, like adults, were victimized more often by persons of the same race (table 14). White teenagers, however, were victimized by other whites more often than were white adults. Black teenagers were victimized by other blacks somewhat more often than were black adults.

• Most black robbery victims—both teenage and adult—reported that the offenders were black. Black teenagers, however, were somewhat more likely than black adults to be robbed by blacks (86% vs. 80%).

• Robbery was less intraracial for white victims. About 49% of white teenagers and 41% of white adults were robbed by white offenders.

• White teenagers were more likely than white adults to experience simple assaults by white offenders (83% vs. 79%). About the same proportions experienced aggravated assaults by white offenders (76% vs. 75%).

• Black teenagers were about as likely as black adults to experience simple assaults by black offenders, but more likely to experience aggravated assaults by black offenders (88% vs. 76%).

*Age of offenders*

• Teenagers and adults were generally victimized by persons within their own age groups (table 15).

• Young teenagers were most likely to be victimized by offenders under 15 or 15-17 (61%). Adults were most likely to be victimized by offenders age 21 or older (70%).

• Almost half of the offenders against older teens were under 21. Almost a third, however, were 21 or older.

**Reporting crimes to the police**

• Both violent and theft crimes against teenagers were less likely than those against adults to be reported to the police (table 16).

• Robberies, simple assaults, and personal thefts were more likely to be reported if an older teenager was victimized than if a young teenager was victimized. The proportions of aggravated assaults reported to the police, however, were not measurably different for these two age groups.

• Unlike the patterns for other crimes, rapes of young teenagers were more likely to be reported to police than rapes of adults and somewhat more likely to be reported than rapes of older teens. These findings, however, are based on a relatively small number of sample cases.

• The proportion of teenage victimizations reported to police rose as the seriousness of the crime increased. More than three times as many violent crimes as theft crimes against younger teens were reported to the police. About twice as many violent as theft crimes against older teens were reported.

• About 31% of those who notified police of violent crimes against teenagers stated that the most important reason was to prevent the incident from happening again to the victim or to others (table 17). The desire to recover property was mentioned most often as the primary reason crimes of theft were reported.

• Survey respondents were also asked the most important reason the police were not notified. A higher proportion of violent crimes against teenagers than against adults were not reported to police because the incident was not viewed as important enough (table 18).

• For younger teens, the most often mentioned reasons for not reporting a violent crime were that it was not considered important enough (28%) or it was reported to someone else (26%), possibly a parent, teacher, or school official. The most often mentioned reason for not reporting a theft crime was that it was reported to someone else (43%).

• For older teens, the most often mentioned reasons for not reporting a violent crime were that it was a private, personal matter (28%) or it was unimportant (25%). The most often mentioned reason for not reporting a theft crime was that it was not considered important (31%).

## Methodology

The National Crime Survey measures personal crimes of violence (rape, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault), personal crimes of theft (larceny with or without contact), and household crimes (burglary, household larceny, and motor vehicle theft). Data about crimes, including crimes not reported to the police, are obtained from a continuous survey of a nationally representative sample of households. This report presents findings about personal crimes that occurred during a 3-year period, 1982 through 1984.

For each housing unit included in the sample, NCS interviewers obtain information about criminal incidents experienced by all household members age 12 and over. Although most household members complete the interview themselves, the NCS interviewer obtains information about nearly all 12- and 13-year-olds, persons absent from the household, and incapacitated persons from a knowledgeable proxy respondent. From 1982 through 1984, adult proxy respondents gave interviews for 97% of the 12-13-year-old victims and 1% of the 14-19-year-old victims.

The data presented in this report have been weighted to represent victimizations. The number of victimizations is higher than the number of incidents because some criminal incidents are perpetrated against more than one victim. Series victimizations, which are three or more separate criminal events that the victim cannot describe in detail, and attempted assaults that occurred during commercial thefts have been excluded.

The victimization rates presented in this report are annual averages for the period 1982 through 1984. The numerator of a given rate is the sum of the number of crimes occurring in 1982, 1983, and 1984. The denominator is the sum of the annual population totals for the three years. The annual average rate per 1,000 is computed as follows:

$$\frac{(A + B + C)}{(D + E + F)} \times 1000$$

where A, B, and C are the annual number of crimes in 1982, 1983, and 1984 and where D, E, and F are the population totals for each year. The number of crimes and population totals provided in the tables are annual averages.

In tables 12-15, multiple- and single-offender victimizations have been combined. In table 12, the closest relationship to any offender was used to classify a multiple-offender victimization. For example, if a relative and a casual acquaintance robbed a victim, the crime would be tallied once under "relative."

In NCS annual reports, offender/victim relationships are classified as "stranger" or "nonstranger." Strangers include those known only by sight and those not known at all. Nonstrangers include relatives, those well known but not related, casual acquaintances, and those who are known but the exact relationship is not ascertained.

### *Definition of terms*

**At school:** Those crimes that occurred inside a school building or on school property such as a school parking lot, school play area, or school bus.

**Serious injuries:** Broken bones, loss of teeth, internal injuries, loss of consciousness, gunshot or knife wounds, injuries resulting from rape or attempted rape, or undetermined injuries requiring 2 or more days of hospitalization.

**Minor injuries:** Bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches, swelling, or undetermined injuries requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization.

### *Reliability of comparisons*

All comparisons presented in the text are significant at the 95% confidence level or above, except where the comparison is qualified by "somewhat" or is footnoted to indicate confidence at the 90% level. Differences in percentages that are below the 90% confidence level are referred to as "not measurably different." More information on estimation procedures can be found in Appendix III of Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1984.

**Table 1. Average annual victimization rates and numbers of victimizations, by age of victim and type of crime, 1982-84**

| Type of crime | Age of victim: 12-15 years old | 16-19 years old | 20 years old and older |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Victimization rate** | | | |
| Crimes of violence | 52.0 | 67.8 | 26.9 |
| Rape | 1.5 | 2.1 | 0.7 |
| Robbery | 9.1 | 11.5 | 5.6 |
| Aggravated assault | 10.5 | 20.0 | 7.4 |
| Simple assault | 30.9 | 34.2 | 13.2 |
| Crimes of theft | 124.6 | 122.4 | 68.5 |
| Personal larceny with contact | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Personal larceny without contact | 121.7 | 119.4 | 65.6 |
| **Number of victimizations** | | | |
| Crimes of violence | 753,960 | 1,028,510 | 4,321,110 |
| Rape | 21,230 | 31,470 | 108,800 |
| Robbery | 132,100 | 174,680 | 893,270 |
| Aggravated assault | 152,610 | 303,830 | 1,191,430 |
| Simple assault | 448,020 | 518,530 | 2,127,620 |
| Crimes of theft | 1,806,990 | 1,855,960 | 11,005,210 |
| Personal larceny with contact | 42,190 | 45,340 | 473,720 |
| Personal larceny without contact | 1,764,800 | 1,810,620 | 10,531,490 |
| **Population of age group*** | 14,501,990 | 15,163,220 | 160,630,960 |

Note: The victimization rate is the annual average of the number of victimizations for 1982-84 per 1,000 persons in the age group. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.
*Annual average for 1982-84.

**Table 2. Victimization rates, by type of crime and age of victim, 1984**

| Age of victim | Victimization rate for: Crimes of violence | Crimes of theft |
|---|---|---|
| 12-15 years old | 53.2 | 120.3 |
| 16-19 | 67.6 | 120.4 |
| 20-24 | 64.2 | 114.4 |
| 25-34 | 37.4 | 83.9 |
| 35-49 | 21.1 | 63.0 |
| 50-64 | 10.0 | 40.4 |
| 65 and older | 4.9 | 20.0 |

Note: The victimization rate is the number of victimizations per 1,000 persons in each age group.

**Table 3. Victimization rates per 1,000 persons, by type of crime, age of victim, and demographic characteristics, 1982-84**

| Demographic characteristics of victim | Victimization rate for: Crimes of violence: Total* | Crimes of violence: Robbery | Crimes of violence: Assault | Crimes of theft: Total | Crimes of theft: Larceny with contact | Crimes of theft: Larceny without contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sex** | | | | | | |
| Male | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 63.9 | 13.9 | 49.7 | 130.1 | 4.4 | 125.7 |
| 16-19 | 86.9 | 16.8 | 69.9 | 129.6 | 3.5 | 126.1 |
| Female | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 39.6 | 4.1 | 32.8 | 118.9 | 1.3 | 117.5 |
| 16-19 | 48.6 | 6.2 | 38.5 | 115.2 | 2.5 | 112.7 |
| **Race** | | | | | | |
| White | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 51.2 | 7.9 | 42.1 | 128.5 | 2.3 | 126.2 |
| 16-19 | 66.7 | 9.2 | 55.4 | 129.1 | 2.7 | 126.4 |
| Black | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 61.3 | 17.4 | 41.8 | 112.5 | 6.2 | 106.4 |
| 16-19 | 76.0 | 23.7 | 50.2 | 90.1 | 4.6 | 85.6 |
| Other | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 24.7 | — | 19.5 | 71.7 | — | 67.1 |
| 16-19 | 56.5 | 17.6 | 38.9 | 88.7 | — | 85.7 |

Note: The victimization rate is the annual average of the number of victimizations for 1982-84 per 1,000 persons in each demographic category. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.
— Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.
*Includes data on rape, not presented as a separate category.

**Table 4. Victimization rates by type of crime and age of victim, 1973 and 1984**

| Type of crime and age of victim | Victimization rate: 1973 | 1984 |
|---|---|---|
| Crimes of violence | | |
| 12-15 years old | 55.6 | 53.2 |
| 16-19 | 61.4 | 67.6 |
| Crimes of theft | | |
| 12-15 years old | 171.2 | 120.3 |
| 16-19 | 161.1 | 120.4 |

Note: The victimization rate is the number of victimizations each year per 1,000 persons in each age group.

**Table 5. Place of occurrence of personal crimes, by age of victim and type of crime, 1982-84**

| Type of crime and age of victim | Total | Percent of victimizations that occurred: At or near home | At or near friend's, relative's, or neighbor's home | In a restaurant, commercial building | On public transportation, in a parking lot | In a street or park | In or at school | At another location |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Crimes of violence**[a] | | | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100% | 14% | 6% | 4% | 5% | 34% | 34% | 3% |
| 16-19 | 100 | 15 | 11 | 8 | 11 | 35 | 14 | 6 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 27 | 8 | 15 | 11 | 30 | 2 | 8 |
| Robbery | | | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100 | 13 | — | 4 | 7 | 48 | 24 | — |
| 16-19 | 100 | 16 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 50 | 7 | 4 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 23 | 4 | 9 | 15 | 44 | 1 | 5 |
| Aggravated assault | | | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100 | 13 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 41 | 26 | — |
| 16-19 | 100 | 14 | 12 | 7 | 13 | 38 | 9 | 7 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 29 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 30 | 2 | 9 |
| Simple assault | | | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100 | 14 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 28 | 41 | 3 |
| 16-19 | 100 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 28 | 19 | 6 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 27 | 8 | 20 | 9 | 24 | 3 | 8 |
| **Crimes of theft**[b] | | | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100% | | 2% | 4% | 3% | 5% | 83% | 4% |
| 16-19 | 100 | | 9 | 12 | 20 | 10 | 42 | 7 |
| 20 and older | 100 | | 8 | 19 | 37 | 17 | 7 | 13 |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding.
—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

[a]Includes data on rape, not presented as a separate category.

[b]Since by definition, personal larcenies without contact, which comprise almost all crimes of theft, cannot occur at or near home, personal larcenies with contact that occurred at or near home have been excluded.

**Table 6. Time of occurrence of personal crimes, by age of victim and type of crime, 1982-84**

| Type of crime and age of victim | Total | Percent of victimizations that occurred during: Daytime 6 a.m.-6 p.m. | Nighttime 6 p.m.-6 a.m. | Time not known/not ascertained |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Crimes of violence** | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100% | 76% | 24% | — |
| 16-19 | 100 | 42 | 58 | — |
| 20 and older | 100 | 43 | 57 | * |
| Rape | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100 | 51 | 49 | — |
| 16-19 | 100 | 30 | 70 | — |
| 20 and older | 100 | 34 | 66 | — |
| Robbery | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100 | 73 | 27 | — |
| 16-19 | 100 | 42 | 58 | — |
| 20 and older | 100 | 41 | 59 | — |
| Aggravated assault | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100 | 73 | 27 | — |
| 16-19 | 100 | 37 | 63 | — |
| 20 and older | 100 | 39 | 61 | — |
| Simple assault | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100 | 78 | 21 | — |
| 16-19 | 100 | 45 | 54 | — |
| 20 and older | 100 | 46 | 53 | 1 |
| **Crimes of theft** | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100% | 83% | 8% | 8% |
| 16-19 | 100 | 57 | 32 | 11 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 42 | 40 | 18 |
| Personal larceny with contact | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100 | 81 | 17 | — |
| 16-19 | 100 | 48 | 52 | — |
| 20 and older | 100 | 64 | 35 | 1 |
| Personal larceny without contact | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100 | 83 | 8 | 9 |
| 16-19 | 100 | 57 | 32 | 11 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 41 | 40 | 19 |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding.
*Less than 0.5%.
—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

**Table 7. Presence of weapon, by age of victim and type of violent crime, 1982-84**

| Type of crime and age of victim | Total | Percent of victimizations involving: Unarmed offenders | Armed offenders who used: Total | Gun only | Knife only | Other weapon only | Combination of weapons | Type not ascertained | Don't know/not ascertained if armed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Crimes of violence* | | | | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100% | 69% | 26% | 4% | 8% | 12% | 1% | 1% | 5% |
| 16-19 | 100 | 57 | 37 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 55 | 37 | 12 | 9 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| Robbery | | | | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100 | 57 | 34 | 7 | 15 | 9 | — | — | 9 |
| 16-19 | 100 | 39 | 52 | 19 | 19 | 10 | 4 | — | 9 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 36 | 51 | 19 | 15 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 13 |
| Aggravated and simple assault | | | | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100 | 72 | 24 | 3 | 7 | 13 | — | 1 | 4 |
| 16-19 | 100 | 61 | 35 | 8 | 9 | 14 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 59 | 34 | 10 | 8 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 7 |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding.
— Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.
*Includes data on rape, not presented as a separate category.

**Table 8. Percent distribution of self-protective measures used in violent crimes, by age of victim, 1982-84**

| Self-protective measures ranked by seriousness* | Age of victim | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 12-15 years old | 16-19 years old | 20 years old and older |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Used or brandished a weapon | — | 3 | 6 |
| Used or tried to use physical force | 32 | 37 | 30 |
| Tried to get help, scare offender away, argued or reasoned with offender | 25 | 27 | 35 |
| Resisted without force, including evasion | 38 | 31 | 26 |
| Other measures or measure not ascertained | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Average annual number of victimizations involving self-protection | 554,790 | 814,590 | 3,319,390 |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding.
—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

*Victims who reported more than one self-protective measure are tallied once in the most serious category of measure used.

**Table 9. Percent distribution of attacks, injuries in violent crimes, and medical care obtained, by age of victim, 1982-84**

| Crime characteristics | Total | Age of victim | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 12-15 years old | 16-19 years old | 20 years old and older |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Victim was: | | | | |
| Not attacked* | 52% | 44% | 48% | 54% |
| Attacked | 49% | 56% | 52% | 46% |
| Not injured | 18 | 22 | 19 | 16 |
| Injured | 31 | 34 | 33 | 30 |
| Without medical care | 16 | 19 | 18 | 15 |
| With medical care | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding.
*Includes attempted attacks with weapon.

**Table 10. Percent distribution of injured victims, by seriousness of injury and age of victim, 1982-84**

| Age of victim | Total | Extent of injuries | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Serious | Minor | Extent not ascertained |
| 12-15 years old | 100% | 11% | 87% | 2% |
| 16-19 | 100 | 18 | 81 | — |
| 20 and older | 100 | 22 | 76 | 2 |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding.
—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

**Table 11. Number of victims in violent crimes, by number of offenders and age of victim, 1982–84**

| Number and age of victims | Total | Percent of victimizations involving: One offender | More than one offender | Number not known/not ascertained |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total* | | | | |
| 12–19 years old | 100% | 65% | 33% | 2% |
| 20 and older | 100 | 72 | 26 | 3 |
| One victim | | | | |
| 12–19 years old | 100 | 70 | 28 | 2 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 75 | 23 | 2 |
| Victim was alone | | | | |
| 12–19 years old | 100 | 61 | 36 | 3 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 68 | 29 | 3 |
| Others were present but not victimized | | | | |
| 12–19 years old | 100 | 77 | 22 | 1 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 81 | 17 | 2 |
| More than one victim | | | | |
| 12–19 years old | 100 | 52 | 46 | 2 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 63 | 34 | 3 |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding.

*Includes victimizations in which the total number of victims was not ascertained.

**Table 12. Relationship of offender(s) to victim in crimes of violence, by age of victim and type of crime, 1982–84**

| Type of crime and age of victim | Total | Percent of victimizations involving offender(s) who were: Relatives | Well known, not relatives[a] | Casual acquaintances | Known by sight only | Not known at all | Known, exact relationship not ascertained | Relationship not known/not ascertained[b] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Crimes of violence[c] | | | | | | | | |
| 12–15 years old | 100% | 2% | 20% | 25% | 18% | 32% | 1% | 3% |
| 16–19 | 100 | 5 | 20 | 18 | 11 | 43 | 1 | 2 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 8 | 15 | 11 | 10 | 51 | 1 | 4 |
| Robbery | | | | | | | | |
| 12–15 years old | 100 | — | 6 | 17 | 14 | 58 | — | — |
| 16–19 | 100 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 66 | — | — |
| 20 and older | 100 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 75 | 1 | 4 |
| Aggravated assault | | | | | | | | |
| 12–15 years old | 100 | — | 20 | 18 | 20 | 34 | — | 5 |
| 16–19 | 100 | 4 | 19 | 18 | 12 | 42 | — | 3 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 8 | 15 | 13 | 10 | 47 | 1 | 5 |
| Simple assault | | | | | | | | |
| 12–15 years old | 100 | 2 | 24 | 29 | 19 | 23 | — | 2 |
| 16–19 | 100 | 6 | 23 | 21 | 12 | 35 | 2 | 2 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 10 | 18 | 13 | 12 | 44 | 1 | 2 |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding.

—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

[a]Includes boyfriend, ex-boyfriend, girlfriend, ex-girlfriend, friend, and ex-friend.

[b]Includes victimizations where it was not known or not ascertained if there were one or more than one offender and victimizations where it was not known or not ascertained if the offender(s) was(were) stranger(s) or nonstranger(s).

[c]Includes data on rape, not presented as a separate category.

**Table 13. Perceived sex of offender(s), by sex and age of victim and type of violent crime, 1982–84**

| Type of crime and age and sex of victim | Percent of victimizations involving offender(s) who were: Total | All male | All female | Male and female | Sex not known/not ascertained |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Male victims** | | | | | |
| Crimes of violence* | | | | | |
| 12–19 years old | 100% | 94% | 2% | 2% | 2% |
| 20 and older | 100 | 89 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| Robbery | | | | | |
| 12–19 years old | 100 | 96 | — | 3 | — |
| 20 and older | 100 | 90 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Aggravated assault | | | | | |
| 12–19 years old | 100 | 93 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 85 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| Simple assault | | | | | |
| 12–19 years old | 100 | 95 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 90 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| **Female victims** | | | | | |
| Crimes of violence* | | | | | |
| 12–19 years old | 100 | 57 | 37 | 4 | 2 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 78 | 15 | 4 | 2 |
| Robbery | | | | | |
| 12–19 years old | 100 | 74 | 19 | — | 2 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 87 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| Aggravated assault | | | | | |
| 12–19 years old | 100 | 62 | 30 | 6 | — |
| 20 and older | 100 | 76 | 14 | 5 | 4 |
| Simple assault | | | | | |
| 12–19 years old | 100 | 48 | 47 | 4 | 2 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 74 | 21 | 4 | 2 |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding.
—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.
*Includes data on rape, not presented as a separate category.

**Table 14. Perceived race of offender(s), by race and age of victim, and type of violent crime, 1982-84**

| Type of crime and race and age of victims | Total | Percent of victimizations involving: All white offenders | All black offenders | All other race offenders | Offenders of different races | Race not known not ascertained |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **White victims** | | | | | | |
| Crimes of violence* | | | | | | |
| 12-19 years old | 100% | 76% | 15% | 4% | 3% | 2% |
| 20 and older | 100 | 71 | 20 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Robbery | | | | | | |
| 12-19 years old | 100 | 49 | 38 | 5 | 6 | — |
| 20 and older | 100 | 41 | 46 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Aggravated assault | | | | | | |
| 12-19 years old | 100 | 76 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 75 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Simple assault | | | | | | |
| 12-19 years old | 100 | 83 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 79 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| **Black victims** | | | | | | |
| Crimes of violence* | | | | | | |
| 12-19 years old | 100 | 11 | 83 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 13 | 78 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Robbery | | | | | | |
| 12-19 years old | 100 | 8 | 86 | — | — | — |
| 20 and older | 100 | 9 | 80 | — | 4 | 6 |
| Aggravated assault | | | | | | |
| 12-19 years old | 100 | 9 | 86 | — | — | — |
| 20 and older | 100 | 14 | 76 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Simple assault | | | | | | |
| 12-19 years old | 100 | 14 | 79 | — | — | — |
| 20 and older | 100 | 14 | 78 | — | — | 4 |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding.
—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.
*Includes data on rape, not presented as a separate category.

**Table 15. Perceived age of offender(s), by age of victim and type of violent crime, 1982-84**

| Type of crime and age of victim | Total | Percent of victimizations involving offender(s) who were: All under 15 | All 15-17 | All 18-20 | All 21 and older | Mixed ages | Age not known/not ascertained |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Crimes of violence* | | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100% | 32% | 29% | 7% | 13% | 16% | 4% |
| 16-19 | 100 | 1 | 20 | 24 | 35 | 16 | 4 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 70 | 8 | 7 |
| Robbery | | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100 | 22 | 32 | 10 | 8 | 25 | — |
| 16-19 | 100 | — | 13 | 23 | 30 | 27 | 7 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 1 | 6 | 12 | 54 | 15 | 11 |
| Aggravated assault | | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100 | 29 | 21 | 6 | 16 | 20 | 8 |
| 16-19 | 100 | — | 17 | 23 | 38 | 17 | 4 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 71 | 9 | 7 |
| Simple assault | | | | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100 | 37 | 30 | 6 | 11 | 12 | 3 |
| 16-19 | 100 | — | 24 | 25 | 33 | 13 | 4 |
| 20 and older | 100 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 76 | 6 | 4 |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding.
—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.
*Includes data on rape, not presented as a separate category.

**Table 16. Police reporting rates, by age of victim and type of crime, 1982-84**

| Type of crime and age of victim | Percent of victimizations: Reported to police | Not reported to police |
|---|---|---|
| **Crimes of violence** | | |
| 12-15 years old | 31% | 67% |
| 16-19 | 41 | 58 |
| 20 and older | 53 | 46 |
| Rape | | |
| 12-15 years old | 74 | — |
| 16-19 | 53 | 47 |
| 20 and older | 48 | 51 |
| Robbery | | |
| 12-15 years old | 34 | 64 |
| 16-19 | 46 | 54 |
| 20 and older | 60 | 39 |
| Aggravated assault | | |
| 12-15 years old | 41 | 57 |
| 16-19 | 48 | 50 |
| 20 and older | 61 | 38 |
| Simple assault | | |
| 12-15 years old | 25 | 74 |
| 16-19 | 34 | 65 |
| 20 and older | 45 | 54 |
| **Crimes of theft** | | |
| 12-15 years old | 9% | 90% |
| 16-19 | 19 | 79 |
| 20 and older | 31 | 67 |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding and the exclusion from the table of percentages (2% or less) where police reporting was not known or not ascertained.
—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

**Table 17. Most important reason for reporting crimes to police for victims ages 12-19, 1982-84**

| Most important reason | Crimes of violence | Crimes of theft |
|---|---|---|
| Total | 100% | 100% |
| Desire to recover property | 6 | 60 |
| In order to collect insurance | — | 6 |
| To keep it from happening again or to others | 31 | 11 |
| To punish the offender | 18 | 4 |
| To stop or prevent this incident | 16 | 3 |
| Because it was a crime | 5 | 5 |
| Because it was victim's duty | 3 | 2 |
| Need for help due to injury | 4 | — |
| Other[a] | 17 | 9 |
| Average annual number of victimizations reported to police by respondent[b] | 231,060 | 276,780 |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding.
—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.
[a]Includes respondents who reported other reasons, those who cited the existence of evidence or proof as the most important reason, those who said that no one reason was most important, and those for whom a reason was not ascertained.
[b]Victimizations reported to police by someone other than the respondent are not included.

**Table 18. Most important reason for not reporting crimes to police, by age of victim and type of crime, 1982-84**

| Most important reason for not reporting, by age of victim | Crimes of violence[a] | | | Crimes of theft |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Robbery | Assault | |
| Total | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| 16-19 | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| 20 and older | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Did not think it was important | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 28 | 23 | 30 | 31 |
| 16-19 | 25 | 18 | 27 | 31 |
| 20 and older | 18 | 10 | 20 | 28 |
| Reported to someone else | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 26 | 23 | 26 | 43 |
| 16-19 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 24 |
| 20 and older | 8 | 4 | 9 | 11 |
| Private, personal matter | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 17 | 10 | 19 | 2 |
| 16-19 | 28 | 12 | 31 | 4 |
| 20 and older | 29 | 17 | 32 | 4 |
| Object recovered or offender unsuccessful | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 2 | 9 | — | 2 |
| 16-19 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 3 |
| 20 and older | 4 | 11 | 3 | 4 |
| Didn't realize crime had happened until later | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | — | — | — | 1 |
| 16-19 | — | — | — | 4 |
| 20 and older | c | — | — | 8 |
| Property hard to recover | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | — | — | — | 2 |
| 16-19 | — | — | — | 4 |
| 20 and older | c | 2 | — | 5 |
| Lack of proof | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 5 | 10 | 3 | 8 |
| 16-19 | 6 | 18 | 4 | 15 |
| 20 and older | 8 | 18 | 6 | 18 |
| Police wouldn't think it important enough | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 5 | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| 16-19 | 5 | — | 6 | 4 |
| 20 and older | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| Police would be inefficient, insensitive | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 2 | 3 | 1 | — |
| 16-19 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| 20 and older | 5 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| Too inconvenient | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | — | — | — | 1 |
| 16-19 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| 20 and older | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Afraid of reprisal | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 3 | — | 3 | c |
| 16-19 | 6 | 6 | 5 | c |
| 20 and older | 5 | 4 | 5 | c |
| Other[b] | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 10 | 8 | 10 | 6 |
| 16-19 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 7 |
| 20 and older | 14 | 15 | 13 | 10 |
| Annual average number of victimizations not reported to police | | | | |
| 12-15 years old | 507,730 | 85,180 | 417,590 | 1,625,370 |
| 16-19 | 596,660 | 93,944 | 487,900 | 1,471,130 |
| 20 and older | 1,996,908 | 347,582 | 1,593,598 | 7,415,525 |

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding.
—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.
[a]Includes data on rape, not presented as a separate category.
[b]Includes respondents who reported other reasons, those who said no one reason was most important, and those for whom the reason was not ascertained.
[c]Less than 0.5%.

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(revised January 1988)

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